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DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

MICHAEL R. STYLER
Executive Director

Division of Water Rights

JERRY D. OLDS
State Engineer/Division Director

October 31, 2007

Dear Sir or Madam:

Please find attached responses to the comments we received after our last meeting held on August 6, 2007 in Enterprise regarding a proposed groundwater management plan for the Beryl / Enterprise area. We appreciate the comments that were submitted and hope that our responses provide meaningful information and clearly address the issues that were raised.

Water is a very important resource in the area and directly affects the quality of life that is enjoyed in the basin. Many of the local citizens and water users are rightly concerned about how a proposed groundwater management plan (plan) might impact them and their water rights. All are invited to be involved in the process of developing a plan. Please be assured that the Division of Water Rights does NOT already have a plan for the basin.

It appears that the challenges facing us at this time are as follows:

- Identify the issues/parameters to be included in a plan.
- Decide the approach that should be taken to get the basin to safe yield.
- Determine how the plan should be “gradually” implemented to minimize the economic impact on individuals and the community.
- Develop a voluntary arrangement to address several local concerns.

The water users in the Beryl Enterprise area have invested large sums of money in their farms and perhaps most importantly their life's work. Others have purchased land and water with plans to develop in the future. The task facing us at this time is to develop a plan to bring the water use in the basin within the safe yield limits and also deal with the impacts on the community. Hopefully, we can all see that doing nothing will leave this problem to the next generation to address, and the situation will only become more difficult with time.

Another public meeting is planned for Thursday, January 10th at 3:00 pm at Enterprise High School to present additional information and continue the discussion of a proposed management plan.

We welcome your involvement as we move this effort forward. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jerry D. Olds, P.E.
State Engineer

